



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2013

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Council Chairman
Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Archie Barron, District III
Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, Thomas L. Martin County Attorney, County Administrator Scott Moulder, Assistant Administrator Glenn Breed and Clerk to Council Elizabeth G. Hulse present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler-Anderson Independent, Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio & Norman Cannada-The Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Mr. Thrift called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]:

Ms. Jean Serino addressed Council in support of the property transfer with Oconee Medical Center for the purpose of construction of a YMCA facility.

Mr. Larry Smith, Schneider Electric Plant Manager, addressed Council in support of the property transfer with Oconee Medical Center for the purpose of construction of a YMCA facility; noting that it will be a recruiting benefit for future economic development and local businesses.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council in support of a YMCA pool but asked that the project involve the local municipalities and recreation departments to avoid duplication of services.

Dr. Greg Enders addressed Council in support of the property transfer with Oconee Medical Center for the purpose of construction of a YMCA facility.

Public Comment Session [related to non-agenda items]:

Ms. Peggy Poston, Municipal Marketing Manager, Waste Connections Inc., addressed Council regarding her company's services; asking that the county issue an RFP and not extend the current contract with Waste Management.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Council Response to Public Comment:

None at this meeting.

Meeting Recess:

Mr. Thrift announced a recess at 6:20 p.m.

Meeting Reconvene:

Mr. Thrift reconvened the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Dexter led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Motion to Amend Agenda:

Mr. Moulder noted that there were several citizens present [some with children] who were attending the meeting regarding Proclamation P2013-01. He asked that Council amend the agenda to act on this to allow those families to leave after the presentation.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to amend the agenda to act on Proclamation P2013-01 at this time.

First Reading of the Following Proclamations

Proclamation P2013-01 “A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2013 AS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH IN OCONEE COUNTY”

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Proclamation P2013-01** on first and final reading. Ms. Cindy Wolthuis and Ms. Stephanie Gentry, Oconee DSS accepted the Proclamation and thanked Council. Ms. Wolthuis recognized Mr. Chris Kobinger and the Wilbanks family in attendance; noting that more citizens are needed to help children in need.

Minutes:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Baron, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2013 regular meeting as presented.

Presentations to Council

Oconee Heritage Center Update / Ms. Leslie White, Curator

Ms. White and Mr. Jon Fritz, Board President, addressed Council utilizing a handout [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting activities at the Heritage Center.

Mr. Thrift thanked Ms. White and Mr. Fritz for their presentation.

Administrator’s Report & Agenda Summary

Mr. Moulder briefly reviewed with Council and for the public’s benefit specifics related to the following matters before Council at this meeting:

- Ordinance 2012-37 – public hearing, third & final reading
- Ordinance 2013-05 – public hearing and a request by the company to table third & final reading
- Ordinance 2013-06 – first reading
- Ordinance 2013-07 – first reading in title only
- Ordinance 2013-08 – first reading

In addition, Mr. Moulder updated Council regarding the following issues:

1. Sheep Farm Road Scenic Highway Designation / Planning Commission Recommendation
2. YMCA / Possible Property Transfer
3. ITB 12-11 / Roads & Bridges Road Striping / up to a max. \$231,242.09
4. PRT / Local ATAX Grants
5. Approval for Two Agreements / Sheriff’s Office / 9th Annual “Operation Strike Force”

Mr. Moulder updated Council regarding the **Emergency Services Annual Tornado Awareness Poster Contest**; announcing the top winners for each grade. He also stated that the poster would be on display at the county in the hallway for a month.

Mr. Moulder requested that Council at the appropriate time amend **Executive Session** for the following purposes: to discuss contractual matters related to [1] the proposed development of the old courthouse, and [2] Broadband Project FOCUS; discuss economic development matters related to [1] Project W, and [2] a matter effecting the Golden Corner Commerce Park; and to discuss a litigation matter.

Broadband Project FOCUS Update:

Mr. Moulder addressed Council highlighting the following aspects of the project to date:

- A number of key installations are already connected, including SDOC and emergency facilities
- All three Network Operations Centers (NOC's) have been equipped
- We are on plan to have satisfied all Federal program requirements before the August 1, 2013 due date
- Mark Ansboury with Gigabit Squared, a respected broadband consultant is now working with our team
- We have managed our development expenses within budget
- We did not completed our rate structure until recently therefore we have lagged in signing up ISP's
- Our current paying external paying customers are SDOC and DukeNet
- The federal program administrators have been very complimentary of our progress, and have used our program as an example for other counties

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2012-37 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND **AID COMPANY LLC**; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES RELATED TO THE PROJECT”

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 2012-37.

Ordinance 2013-05 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND **TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS OF SC, INC.**; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO”

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 2013-05.

Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2012-37 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND **AID COMPANY LLC**; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES RELATED TO THE PROJECT”

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-37** on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2013-05 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND **TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS OF SC, INC.**; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO”

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to table third and final reading of **Ordinance 2013-05** at the request of the company; noting that the ordinance will be rescheduled for third and final reading at the request of the company.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

[None scheduled for this meeting

[Note: Public Hearings will be scheduled at or before third & final reading for the following ordinances as required]

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2013-06 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCES NO. 2006-027, 2008-017, 2010-04, 2010-24, 2010-32, 2011-09, 2011-15 AND 2011-34 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK” and Park Agreement

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-06** on first reading.

Ordinance 2013-07 [in title only] “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-07** on first reading in title only.

Ordinance 2013-08 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 26-11, ENTITLED *IDENTIFY ROADS IN THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM*, OF DIVISION 1, ENTITLED *UNIFIED ROAD STANDARDS FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY*, OF CHAPTER 26, ENTITLED *ROADS AND BRIDGES*, OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMEND THE OFFICIAL OCONEE COUNTY ROAD MAP INCORPORATED THEREIN; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-08** on first reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Sheep Farm Road Scenic Highway Designation / Planning Commission Recommendation

Mr. Thrift noted that he would not be voting on this matter as property adjacent to Sheep Farm Road is owned by family members. Mr. Thrift left chambers during discussions and the vote on this matter.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Thrift recused himself – form filed with these minutes] to accept and approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to not designate Sheep Farm Road as a scenic highway.

Mr. Thrift returned to chambers.

YMCA / Possible Property Transfer

Mr. Moulder highlighted aspects of the November 6, 2008 Interlocal Agreement between Oconee County and Oconee Medical Center [OMC]; noting that property was designated for future development of a recreation / swim facility. Mr. Barron noted that he was a board member of the hospital for many years and reviewed the history regarding property transfers between the hospital and the county related to financing and bonding.

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate details with OMC regarding designation of acreage and to draft conveyance deeds for presentation to Council at a future meeting.

ITB 12-11 / Roads & Bridges Road Striping / up to a max. \$231,242.09

Mr. Breed and Ms. Robyn Courtright, Procurement Director, addressed Council regarding this agenda item.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to [1] approve the award of ITB 12-11 to Peek Pavement Marking, LLC, of Columbus, GA, for up to a maximum of \$231,242.09, and [2] authorize the County Administrator to renew this bid for an additional four years, as long as the amount does not exceed the amount budgeted for Road Striping.

PRT / Local ATAX Grants

Mr. Phil Shirley addressed Council regarding these ATAX grants.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve the ATAX grants on the spreadsheet provided.

Approval for Two Agreements / Sheriff's Office / 9th Annual "Operation Strike Force"

Sheriff Mike Crenshaw addressed Council regarding these agreements.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the Sheriff to execute the two Criminal Patrol Transfer Agreements as presented.

Council Committee Reports

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare / Mr. McCall

Mr. McCall updated those present highlighting discussions that took place earlier at the 5:00 p.m. meeting; noting that Mr. Robert Merritt and Mr. Doug Patterson, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Staff Officers, addressed the group regarding boating safety. Mr. McCall noted that group offer boating safety classes and literature which the County will post on the website for interested citizens.

Old Business

H3290 / S203: Solid Waste Flow Bill

Mr. Thrift & Mr. Martin outlined the negative effect to Oconee County if bill passes the House and Senate; noting that it will negate all existing solid waste planning in the county. Mr. Thrift asked all citizens concerned about the impact on Oconee County to contact the local delegation representatives and specifically Senator Thomas Alexander to ask that they vote against the bill or at a minimum abstain from voting on these bills.

New Business

[None at this Meeting]

Executive Session:

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to amend the purpose for Executive Session as follows: to discuss contractual matters related to [1] the proposed development of the old courthouse, and [2] Broadband Project FOCUS; discuss economic development matters related to [1] Project W, and [2] a matter effecting the Golden Corner Commerce Park; and to discuss a litigation matter.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to enter Executive session purposes outlined above.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. on a motion by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Thrift stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Adjourn

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously 5 - 0, to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council